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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/988,481	11/19/2001	Dessa O. Clinton		8772

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Medical Inventions
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[REDACTED]
EXAMINER

BROWN, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	3764

DATE MAILED: 04/22/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Tee

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/988,481	Dessa Clinton
Examiner	Group Art Unit	
Michael Brown	3764	

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

P riod for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- This action is **FINAL**.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement

Application Papers

- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Pri ority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the:
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received
in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a))

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Acti n Summary

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(b) because they are incomplete. 37 CFR 1.83(b) reads as follows:

When the invention consists of an improvement on an old machine the drawing must when possible exhibit, in one or more views, the improved portion itself, disconnected from the old structure, and also in another view, so much only of the old structure as will suffice to show the connection of the invention therewith.

Correction is required.

It is not clear as to what figures 1A and 1B are in reference to.

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: The drawings do not include any reference numbers. Correction is required.
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: The specification does not recite any reference numbers. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

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5. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

It is not clear as to what the plastic derivatives are in reference to. There is a lack of support in the specification for the elastic material having a thickness that allows transparency for visual verification, the elastic being any type of tissue or a manufacturing process which allows an apparatus to be rolled upon itself like a condom.

6. Claims 1-16 are rejected as failing to define the invention in the manner required by 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The claim(s) are narrative in form and replete with indefinite and functional or operational language. The structure which goes to make up the device must be clearly and positively specified. The structure must be organized and correlated in such a manner as to present a complete operative device. The claim(s) must be in one sentence form only. Note the format of the claims in the patent(s) cited.

In claims 1-16, it is not clear as to what the meets and bounds of the claims are. In claim 1, the elasticized tube is positively recited four times. It is improper to positively recite the same structural limitations more than once in a claim, (i.e., an elasticized tube and an elastic sleeve. In claim 1, it is not clear if the elasticized tube and the elastic sleeve is the same structural limitation.

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In claims 9-10 and 12, it is improper to recite that the elastic is comprised of any type of tissues, because it appears as if a portion of the human body is being claimed. In claim 15, it is not clear if the material is transparent. In claim 16, it is not clear to what the apparatus manufacturing process is in reference to.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1-4, 9-10 and 14-16 as understood are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Spooner

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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10. Claims 5-8 and 11-13 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Spooner in view of Delao.

Spooner discloses in figures 1-2 a stretchable apparatus, substantially as claimed. However, Spooner does not disclose the elastic material being latex, silicone or a plastic. Delao teaches in figures 1-3 a stretchable apparatus comprising an elasticized tube 3 that is made of a plastic, a synthetic fabric (could be latex) or a silicone (rubber). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made that the elasticized tube as disclosed by Spooner could be fabricated of latex, silicone or a plastic as taught by Delao because either one of these materials are elastic and repellent to body fluids that could pass through the material and onto the user's clothes.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Meyer and Elliott, each discloses a protective elastic sleeve. Although each of these references discloses structural limitations recited in the claims, neither was used to reject any claims, in the first office action.

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Brown whose telephone number is (703) 308-2682.

M. Brown
April 16, 2002



Michael A. Brown
Primary Examiner